

Testimony of Christine Zaleski
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In Support of Raised Bill 6303 – an Act Concerning Municipal Animal Shelters
February 18, 2011

Senator Cassano, Representative Gentile, members of the committee, I thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Raised Bill 6303, An Act Concerning Municipal Animal Shelters.

I am a concerned citizen who volunteers and financially supports a number of animal welfare organizations. You don't have to be involved in rescue to see the great inadequacies in the care standard of our municipal shelter system,

In my time visiting shelters to donate supplies, funds and to adopt pets, I have been consistently disappointed to learn just how poorly our society is allowed to treat its' most vulnerable, voiceless members.

It is incomprehensible to me that municipal animal shelters whose purpose is to protect, care for and temporarily house our homeless dogs can routinely deny basic veterinary care to those which are injured and suffering. At the very least, if the animal is injured and suffering it should be immediately taken to a licensed veterinarian.

Currently the laws require minimal standard of care and as a taxpayer, citizen and voter, I feel strongly that these standards be raised.

Nonetheless, neglect and animal cruelty in our shelters via the denial of urgent veterinary care should never be tolerated. I believe it is a disgrace that common decency should have to be legislated, but since it apparently does, I urge you to do the humane thing and please support Raised Bill 6303.

Passing this bill will give the animals the urgent care they require to eliminate needless suffering and to allow them a second chance at a quality life in a loving home.

Thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony.